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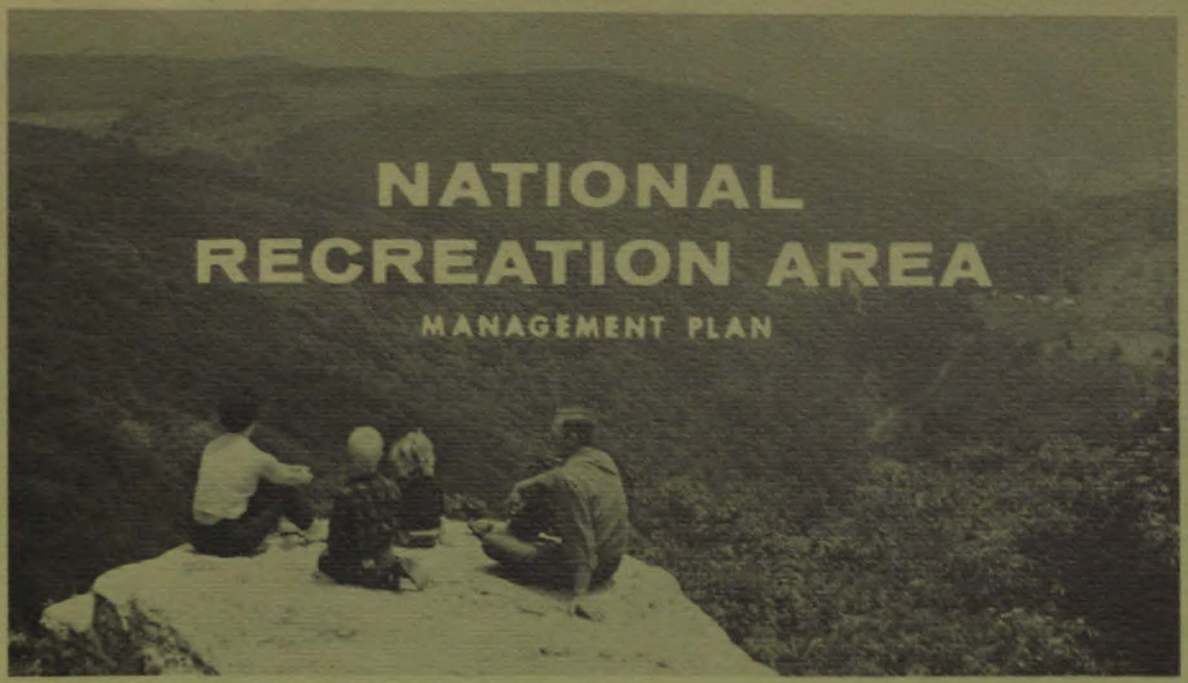


# SPRUCE KNOB-SENECA ROCKS

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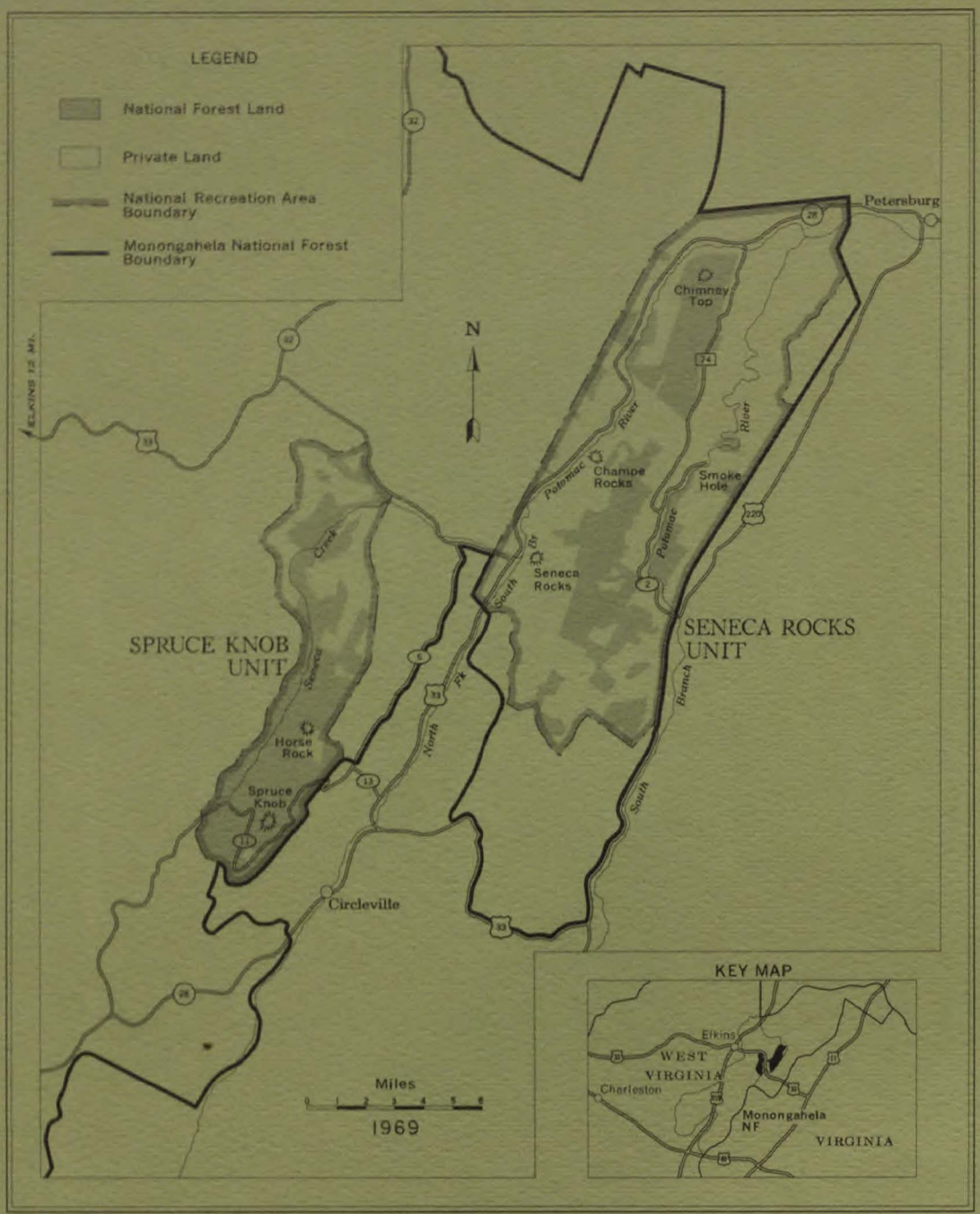
ROCKY MT. FOREST & RANGE
EXPERIMENT STATION

MONONGAHELA *National Forest*

EASTERN REGION ● FOREST SERVICE ● U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# SPRUCE KNOB - SENECA ROCKS
# NATIONAL RECREATION AREA



# FOREWORD

This Management Plan is designed to achieve the direction Congress set forth in Public Law 89-207. This is the Act which established the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area in the Monongahela National Forest of West Virginia.

The Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, is responsible for the administration of this area. It will achieve the objectives set forth by Congress through the coordination of its efforts with those of other Federal, State, and local governments, as well as with private organizations, landowners, and interested individuals.

This Plan provides an inventory of existing resource values, sets policies to guide management, and presents a program for development of this National Recreation Area. It is based on providing optimum opportunities for outdoor recreation for the expanding population of the east; commensurate with the protection and development of the area's resources. This program will contribute greatly to the U. S. Department of Agriculture's effort to strengthen rural areas.

The Plan recognizes the importance of the interrelationship between vegetation, soil, and water. It directs management efforts toward the protection and improvement of these resources. To achieve this, it delineates broad land management zones and establishes guidelines on resource use within each zone. Finally, it presents a creative conservation program to make this a National Recreation Area which will become a part of our heritage to pass on to future Americans.

This Plan is approved.

E. M. Olliver
Forest Supervisor
Monongahela National Forest

George S. James
Regional Forester
Eastern Region

Edward P. Cliff
Chief, Forest Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture

Date: 8-1-69

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EXPERIMENT STATION

CONTENTS

A RÉSUMÉ . . . . . 1

Objectives . . . . . 2

Area Attractions . . . . . 3

Surrounding Attractions. . . . . 7

Demand For Recreation. . . . . 10

Cooperation. . . . . 10

The Management Guide . . . . . 11

The Development Plan . . . . . 15

Map - The National Recreation Area

Map - Management Zones

Map - Development Plan

# MANAGEMENT PLAN

"... to provide for the public outdoor recreation use and enjoyment thereof by the people of the United States ...."

FOREST SERVICE - EASTERN REGION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

January 1969

EAST FROM SPRUCE KNOB OVERLOOK

*The Eye is Drawn, The Spirit Compelled*

DISCOVER AMERICA

A LAND ABOVE THE ORDINARY --
A section of the Appalachian heartland. Headwaters of the Potomac River. Swift running streams, historical associations, outstanding scenery, wildlife, forests, and opportunity for outdoor Americans' enjoyment.

MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR
SPRUCE KNOB-SENECA ROCKS
NATIONAL RECRECATION AREA

# A RÉSUMÉ

Congress has designated as National Recreation Areas lands having outstanding values and opportunities for public outdoor recreation. National Recreation Areas are spacious units of public land with scenic, recreational, and other natural values well above the ordinary in quality and appeal. They have a high recreation capacity, and are reasonably accessible to concentrations of people. Their qualities attract users from other States and regions. Providing outdoor recreation opportunities is recognized as the primary management goal, though other natural resources are utilized to full extent compatible with the public use and enjoyment of the recreation potential.

The Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area, established by Congress in 1965, meets these criteria. It is located in the Monongahela National Forest, and is within 250 miles of more than one-third of the population of the United States. Here within this 100,000 acre area is land above the ordinary--swift running streams, historical associations, outstanding scenery, wildlife, forests, and opportunity to seek the outdoors. It is an area where the fisherman, hunter, the picnicker, the camper, the bird watcher, and all others who revel in the beauties of nature may enjoy the pastimes of the great outdoors in this magnificent mountain country of West Virginia.

This Management Plan is designed to achieve the direction Congress set forth in Public Law 89-207, an Act establishing the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area. Responsibility for the development and management of this National Recreation Area is under the Secretary of Agriculture. It will be administered by the Forest Service. This Management Plan is: An inventory of existing conditions and values; policy guidelines to direct management; and a development program to meet public needs. It is based on the concept of providing increased opportunities for outdoor recreation,

commensurate with preservation of the area's resources. It is designed to provide an opportunity for a grand outdoor experience, and to maintain this area as a part of our natural heritage to pass on to future Americans. Outdoor recreation is the primary objective, together with conservation of the area's scenic, historic, and scientific values. Use of timber, forage, minerals, and other resources is to continue, subject to such modifications as are necessary, to assure that the recreational and other values essential to public enjoyment are maintained. Guidelines to achieve coordination of resources and uses are set forth in a Management Guide. A Development Plan is presented to accommodate and serve 2.5 million visitors annually by the year 1980. The program will also substantially meet the needs of five million visitors annually by the year 2000. It will protect and develop other forest resources compatible with recreation use.

The estimated cost of this development program is 23.5 million dollars. The benefits will be recreation, land improvement, and a bolstered local economy extending far beyond the development program. This Résumé presents the highlights of the Management Plan.

The National Recreation Area is in the headwaters of the Potomac Basin. A plan has been developed to make the Potomac Basin a "Model of Conservation." The National Recreation Area will contribute substantially toward meeting resource needs within the Basin.

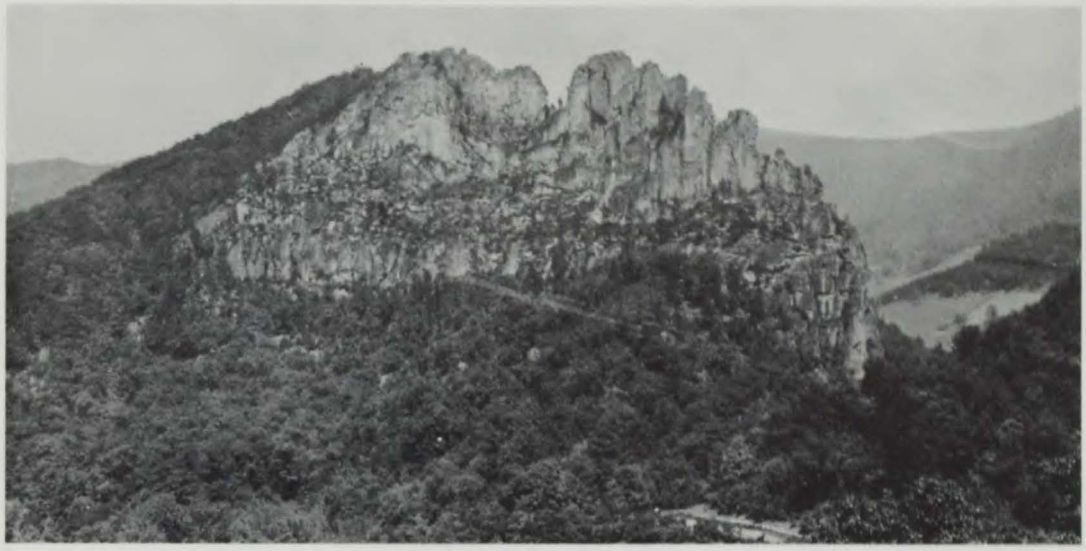
## OBJECTIVES

The broad objectives of the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area as set forth in the Act are: (1) To develop, protect, and administer the area in a manner which will best provide for public outdoor recreation benefits; (2) to conserve the scenic, scientific, historic, and other values which will contribute to public use and enjoyment; and (3) assure continued management, utilization, and disposal of natural resources--timber, forage, minerals, wildlife, and water--that are compatible with, and do not significantly impair the purposes for which the recreation area is established.

## AREA ATTRACTIONS

Congress designated the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area because of its outstanding resources and natural attractions. The area is 100,000 acres of rugged mountains along the North Fork and South Branch of the Potomac Rivers. Its topography varies from high mountains to subterranean caves. Major attractions include:

Seneca Rocks - One of the best-known landmarks of West Virginia.



Seneca Rocks is a 1000-foot high quartzite formation rising from the North Fork Valley at the mouth of Seneca Creek. Besides its interest to sightseers, Seneca Rocks is considered by climbers to be the best rock climb in the East. During World War II, it was a training ground for Army mountain troops. As a result of its intensive use, it has been called by some climbers the "Face of 1000 Pitons." Nearby and rivaling the famous Seneca Rocks are the similar formations of Champes Rock, Blue Rock, and Chimney Rock. These rock formations offer a unique challenge to those who attempt their conquest.

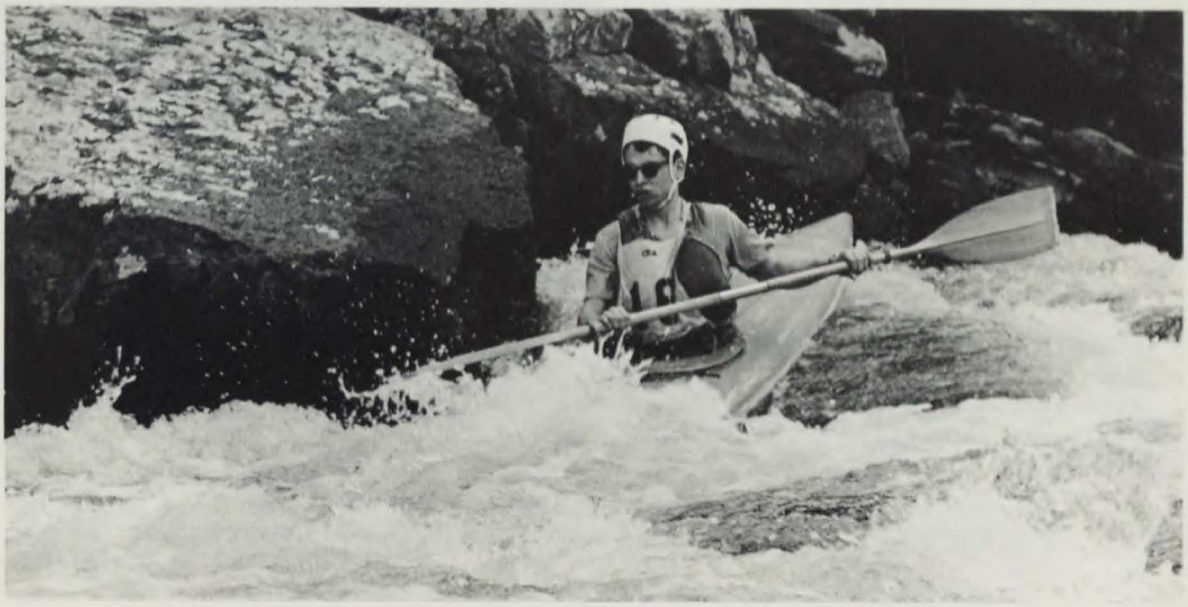
Smoke Hole - The Smoke Hole is actually a canyon through which the South Branch of the Potomac flows for a distance of 20 miles. It is an area of interesting geological formations and a variety of flora. For half the distance through the Smoke Hole Country, a road parallels the beautiful South Branch.

An attraction is Smoke Hole Cave, a circular chamber about 40 feet high and 15 feet in diameter, with several corridors leading from the main room. It has been said the Cave was so named because of its use by Indians as a smoke curing chamber for preserving meat. Another explanation as to the origin of the name "Smoke Hole" is that it derived from the mist formed when moist air rising from caves meets with cool air outside, giving the appearance of smoke.

Eagle Rock - This spectacular rock formation was named for Colonel William Eagle, a Revolutionary War soldier who lived nearby. Colonel Eagle enlisted at the age of 15 and fought at Valley Forge and Yorktown. He died in 1848 and is buried very close to the base of Eagle Rock.

North Fork Mountain - North Fork Mountain, or North Mountain, is the dominant range in the eastern part of the National Recreation Area. It extends the length of the area and is a favorite for hikers because of its spectacular mountain-top views. Cave Mountain to the east is equally appealing to hikers.

North Fork - The North Fork River from the mouth of Seneca Creek through Hopewell Canyon is a favorite with a growing number of white-water canoe enthusiasts. Over 15,000 people gathered in 1967 to watch the annual competition in this exciting sport. The run through the Smoke Hole Country on the South Branch is also a favorite of white-water canoeists.



Spruce Knob - Spruce Knob, the high point on Spruce Mountain, at 4,862 feet elevation, is the highest point in West Virginia. It is an area of windblown red spruce timber and rock outcrops. It is easily accessible by road and affords excellent views of the mountains to the west and east.

Seneca Creek - Seneca Creek has its origin in springs on Spruce Mountain and runs north and east to empty into the North Fork at Seneca Rocks. Seneca Creek is a stream of spectucular waterfalls and wild beauty and has the reputation of being one of the best trout streams in West Virginia. The old logging railroad which once followed the stream is gone, and the grade is now a favorite back-country trail for hikers.

Caves - Two privately owned geologic attractions, Seneca Caverns and Smoke Hole Caverns, are tourist attractions. Thousands of people visit these areas each year. Numerous smaller caves exist throughout the Recreation Area, making it attractive to spelunkers.

SURROUNDING ATTRACTIONS. The Monongahela National Forest and surrounding area are rich in natural and historic values, and offer the tourist a wide variety of attractions, recreation, and travel facilities. These attractions are located within easy reach of the National Recreation Area (Figure 1).

Developments on the Forest include the recently completed Visitor Information Center near Richwood, West Virginia. This center is located near Cranberry Glades, a boggy, tundra-like area. It is the southern terminus of the Highland Scenic Highway--a scenic road being constructed through the Monongahela National Forest. A number of developed sites are located within the National Forest.

Cranberry Mountain Visitor Center

Cranberry Glades

At the Sinks of Gandy a cliff rises squarely in front of a stream. At its base is an arched opening--a gaping mouth which swallows the river, only to reappear on the other side of the mountain, over a half-mile away. Properly equipped, one can travel the entire length of this cave.

The region offers the sportsman a variety of game and fish. Its mountains support wild turkey, bear, deer, squirrel, and grouse. The streams vary from fast mountain trout streams to slow bass waters. They offer year around fishing. Two State fish hatcheries and the Bowden National Fish Hatchery supply trout for stocking, including the Golden Rainbow Trout, a mutation of the Rainbow trout perfected by State fishery biologists at Petersburg. In addition to the National Forests, opportunities for hunting exist on several State public hunting areas. The Cranberry Mountain Back Country Area provides excellent fishing, hunting, and hiking in an undeveloped forest environment. This 53,000 acre area is closed to all motorized vehicles.

Dolly Sods -- appearing like a bit of Canada transplanted on top of Allegheny Mountain.

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park is the scene of John Brown's abolitionist activities. The old buildings have been restored and the fort, in which Brown and his followers defended themselves, houses a museum.

State Parks at Blackwater Falls, Cacapon, Canaan Valley (under construction), and Lost River offer comfortable lodge and cabins to enjoy skiing, swimming, hiking, and other activities.

The Cass Scenic Railroad is a must for anyone interested in traveling by antique steam locomotives. A 12-mile train ride is being developed. The present shorter ride offers outstanding mountain scenery and an unforgetable trip the entire family can enjoy.

In contrast with the old steam engine is the National Radio Astronomy Observatory at Green Bank--a symbol of the future. Its "big dish" listens for signals from outer space.

This region is a major vacation area, providing an outdoor experience within a short driving distance from large population centers. It will provide a real opportunity for enjoyment by the ranks of people where outdoor living is now a backyard fireplace. The resources are here. They complement each other and can be enjoyed by people seeking a variety of outdoor experiences.

# RECREATION ATTRACTIONS

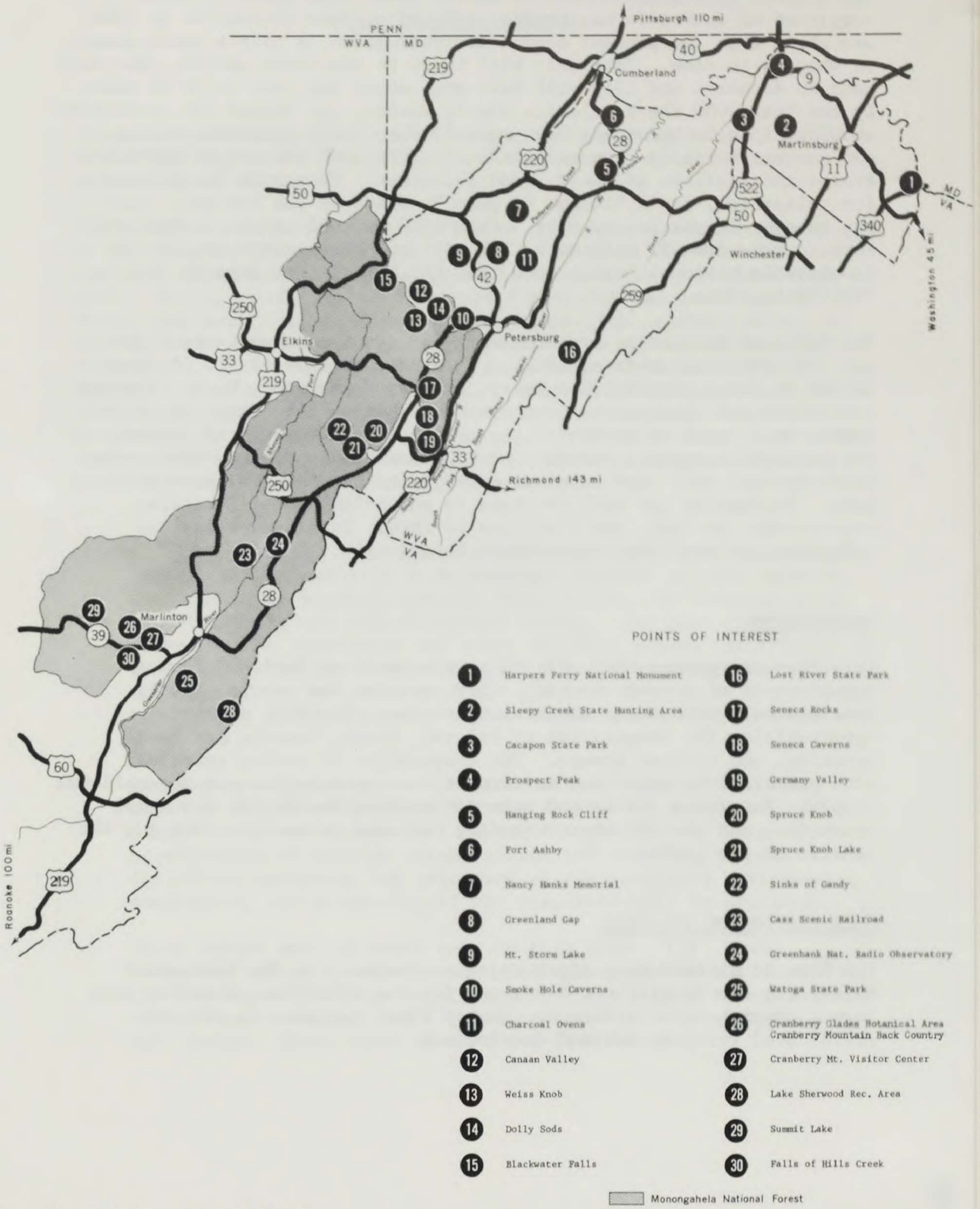



Fig 1. Surrounding Attractions

## DEMAND FOR RECREATION

The Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission (ORRRC), which completed an intensive nationwide study of outdoor recreation in 1962, has shown that the present demand for recreation is only a small sample of what is to come. "Not only will there be many more people, they will want to do more, and they will have more money and time to do it with. By the year 2000 the population should double; the demand for recreation should triple." Americans have more leisure, more spendable income, and greater mobility than ever before. They seek the out-of-doors to escape the confines of their urban existence. They look for solitude, for relaxation, and a "change of pace." Whatever the reasons, they are in ever-increasing numbers. From 1950 to 1965 visits to National Forests rose from 27 million to 147 million. Recreation use of the Monongahela National Forest rose from 442,000 visitor-days in 1960 to 910,000 in 1966.

The National Recreation Area currently receives comparatively light use (110,000 visitor-days; 1967). This is due primarily to its poor access to large population centers, such as Washington, D. C. Planned Interstate and Appalachian Development Highways will bring this Area within easy reach of one-third the population of the United States. The proposed Allegheny Parkway and Highland Scenic Highway (now under construction) will lead tourists directly to the National Recreation Area. Recreation use will increase to an estimated 2-1/2 million visitor-days by 1980, and 5 million by 2000. Development must be undertaken to meet this anticipated demand.

## COOPERATION

This Plan recognizes that effective management of National Forest resources is of concern to many other agencies and groups, and is possible only with their active cooperation. The Plan suggests opportunities for cooperation of Federal, State, County, and local agencies, and citizen groups. The cooperation of public agencies, plus private initiative and investment, can produce a major recreational complex, furnish a stable and more diversified foundation for local ecomonies, and provide an outstanding National Recreation Area for the benefit of the public.

## ORGANIZATION OF THE PLAN

The Plan is divided into three major sections: (1) The Management Guide, (2) the Development Plan, and (3) the Appendix. Together they form a comprehensive reference (Master Plan) designed to provide coordinated resource use and development.

## THE MANAGEMENT GUIDE

The Management Guide presents an analysis of existing values, public needs, and the capability of the area to produce resource benefits to meet these needs.

The National Recreation Area is divided into four zones for purposes of planning and management. These are broad areas where similar resource situations lend themselves to common objectives and management. Zoning is the key to coordinated planning and development. Within the Zones, the Management Guide identifies separate areas, as needed, where special management is required to meet specific objectives. As an example, grazing areas within the Pioneer Zone are identified as "Management Units." Special requirements are set forth to provide for resource use in a manner that will assure attainment of the Pioneer Zone objectives. All management or development work is accomplished under the objectives and requirements set forth for each of the following zones:

1. Pioneer Zone. This Zone includes areas where an undeveloped forest environment will be maintained, similar to that existing when the first pioneers settled this region. It includes areas of outstanding and rugged natural beauty. The Zone offers a type of recreation experience not found in other areas. It affords an opportunity for the visitor to gain a sense of remoteness, away from the sounds of civilization. The area is open to the public, but only by primitive means of travel along a system of horse and foot trails.

Management will be directed toward maintaining, for all time, areas of forest environment for the purpose of public education, inspiration, and recreation. Special emphasis will be given to preservation of rare or unique plants and animals. Simple facilities necessary for enjoyment of the primitive environment, sanitation, and protection of the resources will be provided.

Three unique natural areas make up this Zone: (1) Lands bordering Seneca Creek, including Allegheny and Spruce Mountains; (2) the Hopeville Gorge area, noted for its rugged beauty and white-water canoeing; and (3) the northern portion of Smoke Hole Gorge. These three areas total 21,300 acres.

2. Water Related Zone. This Zone comprises areas of existing or anticipated recreation use and enjoyment along selected streams and rivers, and around lakes and reservoirs. These are areas in which primary consideration is given to aesthetic values and water quality. The Zone includes sites where heavy public use will occur and must be accommodated in a manner to adequately protect soil and water values. There are 18,810 acres within this zone.

The Zone offers significant opportunities for fishing and water-oriented recreation use and development. Most of the concentrated recreation use is found within this zone.

Management objectives are to enhance the visual enjoyment of scenic values along waterways; provide water-oriented recreation developments; and insure protection of water quality.

3. Scenic Travel Zone. Access to the scenic attractions of the National Recreation Area will be by a system of scenic roads and trails. The Scenic Travel Zone includes the lands bordering these roads and trails. These lands total 13,480 acres.

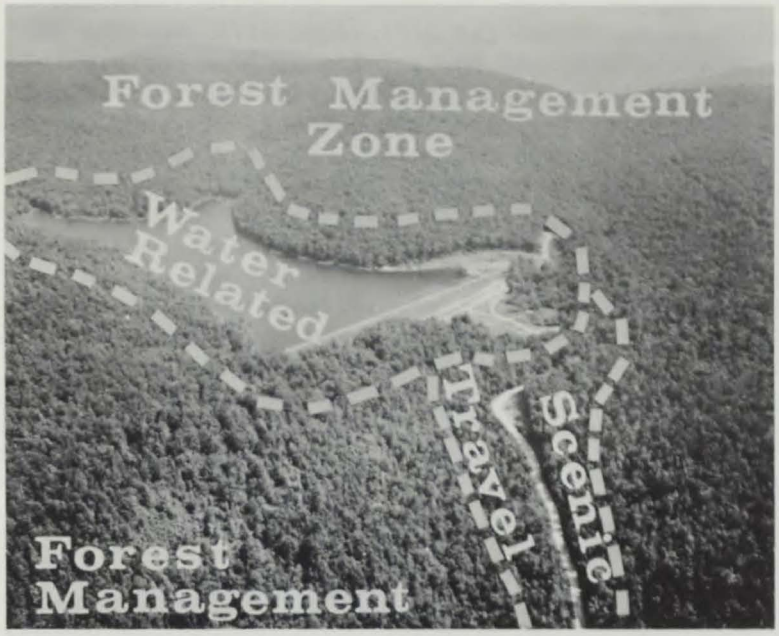
Management of these scenic corridors is aimed at maintaining a pleasing forest environment, improving aesthetic values, and developing a wide variety of recreation and interpretive facilities to serve the traveling public. Management of the timber, water, wildlife, range, minerals, and other resources is undertaken to enhance the objectives of the Zone.

4. Forest Management Zone. This Zone comprises the area where forest resources can be managed to obtain optimum utilization and harvest, when this will not significantly impair the primary objectives of the National Recreation Area. It provides opportunities for coordinated and sustained production of wood, wildlife, and range, consistent with the protection of water quality. There are 46,410 acres within this zone.

The Zone provides important wildlife habitat. Recreation use consists primarily of hunting, hiking, exploring, and sightseeing. Developments for intensive recreation use are not normally found in this Zone.

Management is undertaken to provide an optimum environment for dispersed-type recreation. Habitat for wildlife will be improved, with protection given rare plants and animals. Water quality will

be improved. Timber can be grown and harvested in a manner which will maintain or enhance other resource values.




An example of how Management Zones could occur. Zoning is the key to coordinated planning and development.

The Pioneer Zone.

## Landownership Adjustment

Acquisition of land within the National Recreation Area is needed to fully realize the benefits this area can provide. Use of some proposed development sites, such as campgrounds, impoundments, scenic roads and trails, etc., is contingent upon acquisition of lands. There are areas which are contributing to unacceptable erosion, support uses or structures which detract from the area's scenic qualities, or where use must be controlled to protect investments on adjoining lands.

The Act establishing the NRA directs the Secretary of Agriculture to acquire such lands or interests within the Area as he determines to be needed for the purposes of the Act. Of the total 100,000 acres within the NRA, approximately 39,700 acres are National Forest lands (1968). Public ownership of approximately 19,000 additional acres is considered essential to protect the area's outstanding features, provide recreation development sites, and protect water quality.

The well managed farm adds to the attractiveness of the NRA. Adequate zoning ordinances, scenic easements, or other safeguards are needed to prevent incompatible uses and to maintain the area's pastoral scenery. Scenic easements would be required on some 6,800 acres.

## Royal Glen Reservoir

There has been a longstanding proposal for a dam and reservoir above Petersburg, West Va. (Royal Glen). A high dam at Royal Glen, for flood control and low flow augmentation, would destroy certain recreation values of the NRA. A modified impoundment has been proposed to provide recreation and flood control benefits and to minimize conflicts with the area's high scenic and natural values. In the opinion of Forest Service planners, detailed studies are warranted to assure that any dam at Royal Glen will protect or enhance the major recreation values.

## THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks Area is well suited for development as a National Recreation Area. To fully realize the benefits this area can provide, there will need to be additional consolidation of National Forest lands and an accelerated development of facilities for outdoor recreation. Properly developed, the Area will make a significant contribution to fulfilling public needs. An aggressive program of development is needed to provide for public recreation needs, protect the area's natural beauty, provide good water, and manage timber, wildlife, and livestock. The development theme will be to enhance the natural scenic beauty of the area's rugged mountains.

This section of the Plan contains the details needed to achieve resource development under the directions established in the Management Guide. This is the action program to accomplish the job of meeting public needs. The development and management of this National Recreation Area to accommodate intensive use, without depreciating the visitor's enjoyment or destroying the resource, presents the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, with a challenge. This Plan is the framework of meeting this challenge.

### Recreation

The recreation objective is to achieve balanced development of the recreation potential of the National Recreation Area. The area's size and character lends itself to providing opportunities for a wide range of outdoor recreation activities. These will include hiking, horseback riding, driving for pleasure, hunting, canoeing, fishing, camping, picnicking, nature observation and study, and others.

Expected recreation use will require an aggressive program of campground, picnic, road, trail, and related facility construction. Camping and picnic facilities are needed to accommodate 1750 families per day by 1980.

At the same time, areas are designated (Pioneer Zone) to be managed for all time without public road access. These areas will offer opportunities for those seeking a more undeveloped forest environment.

The National Recreation Area is typical of the more primitive segments of the Appalachian Mountains. Much of the value of this area is dependent upon the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the area. Recreation objectives can, with care, be directed to capitalize upon the area's scenic values.

The Management Plan provides for the development of five major recreation complexes. In addition, a number of smaller campgrounds or picnic grounds will be developed to complement these larger areas. Major developments will be undertaken at:

1. Spruce Knob Lakes Recreation Complex. This area is outside, but adjacent to the NRA, and will be a major development associated with the Spruce Knob Unit. It will consist of Spruce Knob Lake (existing), and five new lakes, varying in size from about 25 to 110 acres. Development will include 318 camping and 135 picnic units, boating and swimming sites, an administrative headquarters, trails, etc. Access will be by the Spruce Knob Scenic Drive. In close proximity is Spruce Knob, highest point in West Virginia. An observation tower, with interpretive facilities, will give the visitor an outstanding view of the National Recreation Area.

Spruce Knob Lake - built under the cooperative wildlife management program with the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources.

2. Seneca Rocks Recreation Complex. Initial development at Seneca Rocks includes a Visitor Center, 125 camping and 50 picnic units. A portion of these would be located at nearby Seneca Lake, which will offer boating and swimming.

3. Royal Glen Recreation Complex. A modified Royal Glen reservoir would provide a major water-oriented recreation area. If this impoundment is authorized, recreation development would include a Visitor Center, 210 camping and 200 picnic units, and swimming and boating facilities. An opportunity exists for a small private marina, under

permit, to provide mooring and service facilities. Nearby North Fork campground would have an initial 100 family camping units--primarily for vacation trailer use.

4. Smoke Hole Recreation Complex. Management of this area will be directed toward maintaining a relatively undeveloped environment along the South Branch of the Potomac River. Major use of this area will be for fishing and sightseeing. This complex includes the southern portion of the Smoke Hole canyon.

At Big Bend a 50-unit rustic campground will serve as a "jumping off" point to the Smoke Hole Pioneer Zone, an undeveloped area which includes the northern half of the 20 mile Smoke Hole canyon.

This complex now has 12 camping and 20 picnic units. Camping facilities, other than Big Bend Campground, will be gradually eliminated. Picnic units would be increased to about 70 units.

Long Run impoundment would be located adjacent to the Smoke Hole area. This recreation and flood retention reservoir (approximately 20 acres) would provide fishing, picnicking, boating, and some swimming.

5. Arrowhead Lake Recreation Complex. A recreation and flood retention reservoir of approximately 70 acres is planned on Reed's Creek, at the southern end of the Seneca Rocks Unit. This area would have 90 units camping and 50 units picnicking, swimming, boating, fishing, trails, etc. Access would be by the proposed Seneca Rocks Scenic Drive.

Three visitor centers are planned, together with self-guided auto tours, interpretive programs, vistas, photographic points, and related facilities. Visitor Centers will be located at Spruce Knob (observation tower), Seneca Rocks, and Royal Glen Reservoir. In addition, 4 roadside information stations will provide information and interpret specific features of the National Recreation Area.

Eight new lakes, varying from 25 to 100 acres in size, are planned to accommodate fishing, camping, picnicking, and boating needs. Five lakes are planned as part of the Spruce Knob Lakes Recreation Complex. In addition, recreation developments are planned in conjunction with three Soil Conservation Service recreation and flood retention reservoirs planned for development as part of the Potomac Basin Plan. A major (1100 acre) water-oriented recreation area would be constructed in conjunction with a modified Royal Glen reservoir, should one be built.

Driving for pleasure will be a major use of the National Recreation Area. To accommodate this, two types of roads are needed: (1) Destination-oriented roads serving recreation facilities; and (2) scenic tour roads to provide access through the more scenic sections of the Recreation Area. These roads, located largely over existing roads, will include observation sites, photographic points, roadside picnic grounds, interpretive trails, self-guided auto tours, etc.

Five swimming beaches will be developed in balance with other water-oriented uses, and according to the capacity of the lake. A swimming pool could be developed as part of a resort lodge (private capital, under permit) at Seneca Rocks.

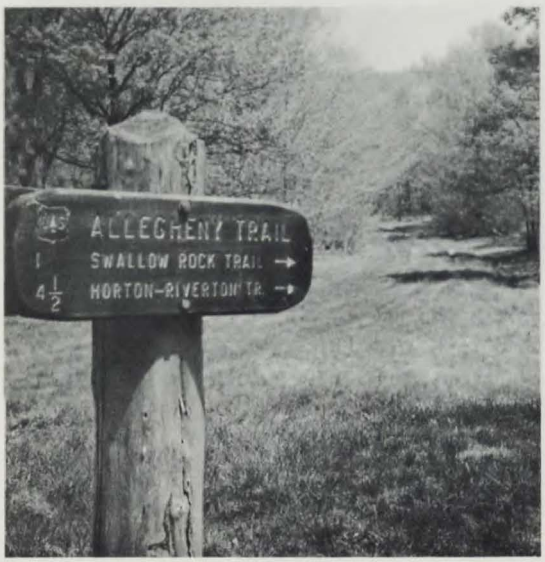
Ten boating sites are planned, with facilities for launching. All lakes, except Royal Glen, will be reserved for motorless watercraft. Zoning control will be employed at Royal Glen (if constructed) to avoid conflict between water-oriented uses.

Hunting and fishing will continue as major uses. State fish and game regulations apply. Spruce Knob Lake (25 acres) is the only existing lake

in the area and it receives heavy use. The addition of 8 new lakes will substantially increase opportunities for family fishing.

Spruce Knob Lake - opening day. Dramatic proof of the popularity of water-oriented recreation, and the great need for additional lakes.

Hiking is increasing in popularity, along with rock climbing, horseback riding, etc. Additional foot and horse trails are planned to accommodate this use.



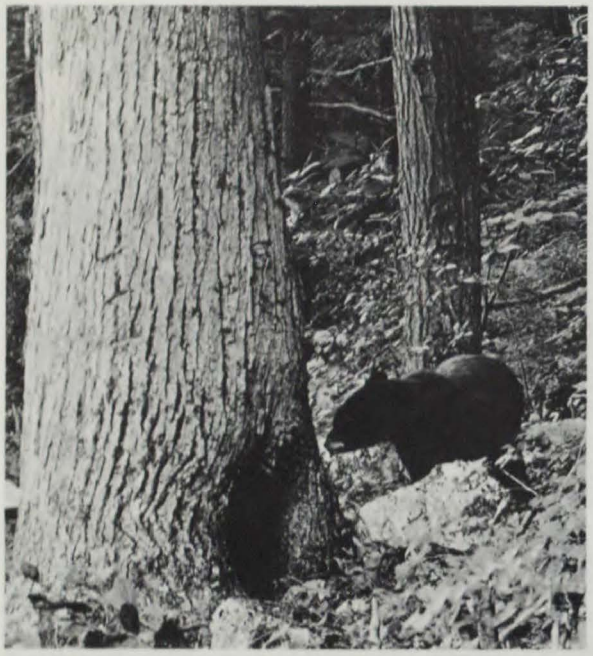
The Management Plan considers recreation developments outside the National Recreation Area which should be developed in conjunction with the National Recreation Area. Seneca Lake, for example, is being planned in conjunction with developments at Seneca Rocks. A winter sports site joins the National Recreation Area and is a strong possibility for development. This would provide year-around recreation use.

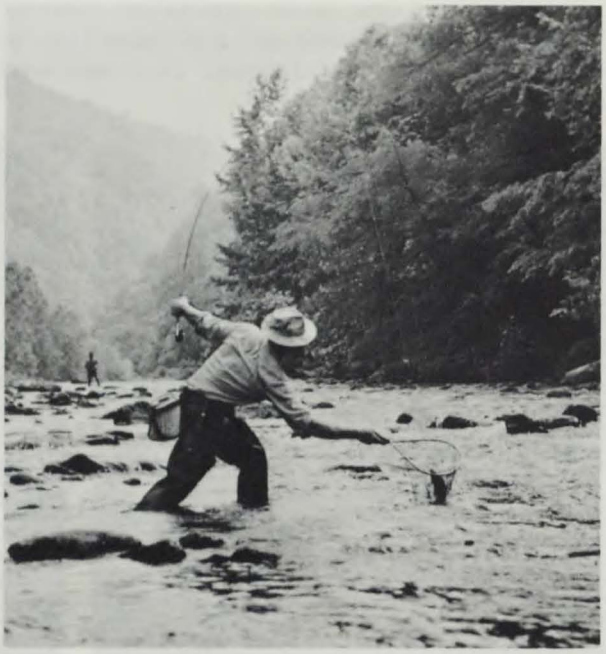
It is anticipated that accommodations and service facilities such as motels, restaurants, and stores will be developed by private capital on private land or on public lands through concessionaire agreements or special use permits. Most of this development will be located outside the Recreation Area.

## Wildlife

The objective of wildlife management is to establish and maintain optimum habitat for native wildlife species so the sportsman and sightseer may enjoy hunting, fishing, or observing and studying wildlife in a natural setting.

Wildlife based recreation currently represents a primary use of the Recreation Area, with stream fishing its highest use. Wildlife habitat improvement is directly related to the quality and quantity of recreation opportunities which may be provided in the area.





Relatively undisturbed areas are desirable to maintain populations of wild turkey and bear. This habitat will be provided in the Pioneer Zone, and in conjunction with adjacent areas of National Forest land closed to public vehicle traffic.

Development work is needed to improve existing wildlife habitat. There is a scarcity of water in the area which can be corrected by the construction of small wildlife ponds. Timber harvest will be used as a tool to improve wildlife habitat. For example, den trees can be reserved in prime squirrel habitat. Stream improvement work will be intensified.

## Range

The pastoral environment is part of the scenic attraction of the National Recreation Area. The maintenance of this environment is an important management objective.

Grassland farming is currently the primary source of income for people living within the National Recreation Area. High quality pastures, on good soils, and mountain "sods" are in strong demand. Grazing will continue on private lands, under scenic or conservation easement. Grazing lands acquired through land-purchase, and not needed for development, will be managed as grazing allotments. Use of these areas by private individuals will be allocated and administered under the longstanding Forest Service grazing permit system.

Some grazing is being undertaken on soils not capable of supporting this use. Lands not suitable for grazing need to be converted to other uses to achieve important watershed objectives. Some of this area could support grazing if proper management were undertaken. The capacity of these lands can be improved. Range improvement is basic to the maintenance of a stable livestock industry.

## Water

The production of high quality water and stabilizing of its flow is an objective of management of the National Recreation Area. Reduction of sedimentation and control of erosion will require watershed restoration work and soil management programs. The results will be more uniform stream flows which will enhance the aesthetic and recreation values of streams in the area and downstream.

Major flooding has occurred at Petersburg, West Virginia, and along the North Fork and South Branch of the Potomac Rivers. Poor soil management practices have resulted in land erosion and stream sedimentation.

The proposed Development Plan initiates a long term program designed to improve water quality and reduce flood damage. The construction of three recreation and flood retention reservoirs, stabilization of some 3,000 acres of eroding land, and improved land management will help achieve a more stable streamflow and conserve the productive capacity of the area's soil resources. A detailed soil survey is essential to guide development. This is being undertaken in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service.

The objective of the Management Plan is to reduce the annual sediment discharge rate from about 25 tons per square mile to 10 tons, by the year 2000. Integration of Forest Service efforts with those of State and local governments and private landowners will result in a measureable improvement of water quality.

Timber

Timber is an important component of the total ecosystem in the National Recreation Area. Careful management of the timber cover in some areas will be necessary to further the primary objectives of the Recreation Area. Where feasible, such management will be accomplished through the planned harvest of commercial quality timber.

Large stands of timber covered much of the Area during the early 1800's. Towns sprang up during the logging boom-days at the turn of the century. These were abandoned after the timber was cut. New stands of timber grew from these cut-over areas, damaged in varying degrees by forest fires and uncontrolled open-range grazing.

Timber harvest programs will be conducted in a manner that will not significantly impair scenic values. An important byproduct of those management programs will be a significant contribution to the local rural economy in the form of employment for local workers and raw material for industry.

The timber resource is the setting in which recreation will take place and is a main attraction of the area. With proper skill, design, and the application of silviculture, the landscape can be painted with vegetation. Different shapes of crowns, branching characteristics, fall leaf colors, and bark coloring can be obtained by selecting different species of hardwoods and conifers. Conifer plantings can provide all year-round greenery. Stands can be thinned to provide park-like appearances, promote understory plants, such as flowers and berries. Flowering trees can be planted and cultured. Hazard trees must be felled and cleaned up.

The cost of cultural work can be borne to a large extent by the sale and use of the trees that have to be removed. In order to maintain timber operators or utilization plants in the area, some consideration must be given to the growth of species and sizes that are profitable to the manufacturing industry.

These special species, such as cherry, maple, etc., will be used for fine furniture by the industries around the area and will continue to provide warmth and beauty to the people even after harvest and manufacture.

## Roads and Trails

The existing Interstate and Primary road system is not adequate at present to provide access for the expected increase in travel from the population centers to the National Recreation Area. Planned Interstate Highways (66 and 81), together with Appalachian Development Highways (U.S. 50 and U.S. 33 - State 28), when completed will meet this critical need. The proposed Allegheny Parkway and Highland Scenic Highway (now under construction) will provide scenic access to the Area. A system of scenic highways located largely upon existing roads, will enable the visitor to see the Area's scenic beauty. Hiker and horse trails will be the principal means of access into the more remote areas.

During the next 10 years the construction and reconstruction of some 31 miles of scenic road to an acceptable standard will be necessary to achieve the objectives of the Management Plan. This will include the 23 mile Spruce Knob Scenic Drive, and portions (8 of 54 miles) of the planned Seneca Rocks Scenic Drive. In addition, it is proposed to construct 50 miles of the total 100 mile trail system.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
Edward P. Cliff, Chief

# SPRUCE KNOB-SENECA ROCKS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

## MONONGAHELA NATIONAL FOREST

## WEST VIRGINIA

1969

Scale ⅜" = 1 mile

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 Mi.

### MANAGEMENT ZONES AND UNITS

LEGEND

| Zones | Management Units* |
|---|---|
| Pioneer | P |
| Water Related | W |
| Scenic Travel | S |
| Forest Management | F |

*Areas within Zones having special management requirements

DAVIS 3 MI.
1 MI. TO STATE HY 72
DRY FORK 3 MI.
ELKINS 13 MI.
PETERSBURG 2 MI.
PETERSBURG 3.5 MI.
BARTOW 10.5 MI.
11 MI. TO VIRGINIA STATE LINE
OAK FLAT 6 MI.

GRANT
TUCKER
RANDOLPH
POCAHONTAS
CO
MOUNTAINS
ALLEGHENY
NEW CREEK MOUNTAIN
KNOBLY MOUNTAIN
KNOBS
CABIN MOUNTAIN
North Valley Branch
Cannaan Mountain
Red Creek
Bell Knob
Dolly Sods
Flatrock Plains
Roaring Plains
Mt Porte Crayon
Harman
Wymer
Job
Tower
Whitmer
Gladdy Fork
Laurel Fork
Dry Fork
Gandy Creek
Brushy Run
Big Run
Grassy Mountain
Elk Mountain
Cherry Grove
Circleville
Pike Knob
Onego
Seneca Rocks
North Fork Mtn
Champe Rocks
Smoke Hole Caverns
Cabins
Kline Gap
Lanes
Mozer
Kline
Upper Tract
Seneca Caverns
Riverton
Ruddle
Fort Seybert
Gatewood
Spruce Knob Lakes Management Unit
SPRUCE KNOB LAKE
SPRUCE KNOB
Spruce Knob Observation Site
Seneca Creek Pioneer Area
Hopeville Gorge Pioneer Area
Smoke Hole Pioneer Area
Smoke Hole Canyon
Arrowhead Lake Management Unit
North of Seneca Rocks Management Unit
Eagle Rock
SMOKE HOLE
Mill Creek
Middle Mountain
North Fork Mill Creek
South Fork Mill Creek
South Fork Mtn
South Fork South Br. Potomac R.
Reeds Mountain
Peters Mountain
Colic Mountain
Castle Mountain
Pickle Mtn
Smith Creek Mountain
Roaring Creek
Seneca Creek
Rohrbaugh Plains
Red Creek
Fore Knobs
South Fork
North Fork
South Branch
Potomac River
Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area
Spruce Knob Unit
Pendleton Unit
Seneca Rocks Unit
Smoke Hole Unit

LEGEND

- National Forest Boundary
- National Recreation Area Boundary
- National Forest Land
- U. S. Highway (22)
- State Highway (44)
- County Route (39)
- Forest Route (107)
- Paved Road
- Secondary Road
- Good Road
- Poor Road
- Trail
- Recreation Site
- Lookout Station

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
Edward P. Cliff, Chief

# SPRUCE KNOB-SENECA ROCKS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

## MONONGAHELA NATIONAL FOREST

## WEST VIRGINIA

1969

Scale ⅛" = 1 mile

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 Mi

## DEVELOPMENT PLAN

### Recreation Sites

- Recreation Complex — See detailed development plan
- Recreation Site — With Camping Facilities
- Recreation Site — Without Camping Facilities
- Trail Shelter
- Visitor Information Station
- Visitor Center
- Point of Interest
- Proposed Lake

### Roads and Trails

- Appalachial Development — Highway - Corridor "H"
- Allegheny Parkway — National Park Service
- Scenic Hiking or Horse Trail System
- Scenic Roads — Initial development to 1980
- Scenic Roads — 1980 to 2000

DAVIS 3 MI.
1 MI. TO STATE HY 72
PETERSBURG 2 MI.
PETERSBURG 3.5 MI.
DRY FORK 3 MI.
ELKINS 13 MI.
BARTOW 10.5 MI.
11 MI. TO VIRGINIA STATE LINE
OAK FLAT 6 MI.

GRANT
TUCKER
RANDOLPH
POCAHONTAS
PENDLETON
CO
CO
CO
CO

MOUNTAINS
ALLEGHENY
NEW CREEK MOUNTAIN
KNOBLY KNOBS
NORTH FORK MOUNTAIN
SOUTH FORK MTN
NORTH MOUNTAIN
SPRUCE KNOB
SENECA ROCKS
UNIT
UNIT
RIVER
NORTH FORK
SOUTH FORK
BRANCH
Middle Mountain
Castle Mountain
Colic Mountain
Peters Mountain
Reeds Mountain
Pickle Mtn
Elk Mountain
Grassy Mountain
Cherry Grove
Circleville
Pike Knob
Franklin
Ruddle
Fort Seybert
Riverton
Onego
Whitmer
Wymer
Harman
Job
Tower
Gatewood
Mozer
Kline
Kline Gap
Landes
Upper Tract
Eagle Rock
Mouth of Seneca
Seneca Rocks
North Fork Mtn
Seneca Caverns
Champe Rocks
Big Ben
Smoke Hole Caverns
Chimney Top
Bell Knob
Dolly Sods
Mt Porte Crayon
Cabins
Tucker Laneville
Red Creek
Canaan
North Valley Branch
Cabin Mountain Trail
Statewide Trail
Fore
Rohrbaugh
Flatrock Plains
Roaring Plains
Red Creek
Dry Fork
Gandy Creek
Laurel Fork
Cladd Fork
Allegheny Parkway
Seneca Creek
Roaring Creek
Smith Run
Big Run
Mill Creek
North Fork
South Fork
South Br Potomac
Run
Creek
Mountain
Plains
Flatrock
Roaring
West Virginia
Potomac
Spruce Knob Trail
Spruce Mountain Trail
Heritage Brushy Trail
Heritage Cave Trail
River Trail
Scenic Drive

ROYAL GLEN LAKE RECREATION COMPLEX
HOPEVILLE GORGE 0
MILL RUN 99.0
LONG RUN LAKE 97.0
SMOKE HOLE RECREATION COMPLEX
NORTH MOUNTAIN 97.0
SENECA LAKE
SENECA ROCKS RECREATION COMPLEX
NORTH FORK MTN OBSERVATION POTENTIAL AFTER 2000
ARROWHEAD LAKE RECREATION COMPLEX
SPRUCE KNOB LAKES RECREATION COMPLEX
SPRUCE KNOB LAKE
OBSERVATION SITE
SPRUCE KNOB
SPRUCE MOUNTAIN OVERLOOK
BIG RUN 93.0
WHITES RUN
JUDY SPRINGS (PRIMITIVE)

SPRUCE KNOB - SENECA ROCKS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

### LEGEND

- National Forest Boundary
- National Recreation Area Boundary
- National Forest Land
- U. S. Highway (22)
- State Highway (44)
- County Route (39)
- Forest Route (107)
- Paved Road
- Secondary Road
- Good Road
- Poor Road
- Trail
- Recreation Site
- Lookout Station

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
Edward P. Cliff, Chief

# SPRUCE KNOB-SENECA ROCKS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

## MONONGAHELA NATIONAL FOREST

## WEST VIRGINIA

1969

Scale ⅜" = 1 mile

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 Mi.

LEGEND

- National Forest Boundary
- National Recreation Area
- Main Highway
- Secondary Highway
- Good Road
- Poor Road
- Trail
- National Forest Land
- 37 (34) U. S. and State Route
- (25) County Route
- 285 Forest Route
- Ranger Station
- Lookout Tower
- Recreation Site

Forest Supervisor Headquarters,
Elkins, West Virginia

DAVIS 3 MI.
1 MI. TO STATE HY 72
DRY FORK 3 MI.
ELKINS 13 MI.
PETERSBURG 2 MI.
PETERSBURG 3.5 MI.
BARTOW 10.5 MI.
11 MI. TO VIRGINIA STATE LINE
OAK FLAT 6 MI.

SPRUCE KNOB - SENECA ROCKS
NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

GRANT
TUCKER
RANDOLPH
POCAHONTAS
CO
SPRUCE KNOB
SENECA ROCKS
UNIT
MOUNTAINS
ALLEGHENY
MOUNTAIN
NEW CREEK MOUNTAIN
KNOBLY KNOBS
RED CREEK
Bell Knob
DOLLY SODS
Smoke Hole Caverns
FISH HATCHERY
Cabins
Kline Gap
Laneville
TUCKER
Harman
Wymer
Job
Tower
Whitmer
Onego
Seneca Rocks
Mouth of Seneca
Champe Rocks
SMOKE HOLE
North Fork Mtn
Eagle Rock
Upper Tract
Mozer
Kline
Landes
Seneca Caverns
Riverton
Ruddle
Fort Seybert
Gatewood
SPRUCE KNOB LAKE
Spruce Knob
Circleville
Pike Knob
Franklin
Cherry Grove
Grassy Mountain
Elk Mountain
Mt Porte Crayon
RIVER
FORK
BRANCH
RUN
CREEK
MOUNTAIN
PENDLETON
ROCKS
CAVE
SPRUCE
SENECA
POTOMAC
Roaring
Flatrock
Plains
Rohrbaugh
Red
Cabin
Canaan
North Valley Branch
Laurel
Dry
Gandy
Big
Smith
Reeds
Peters
Collic
Castle
Pickle Mtn
Middle Mountain
South Br Potomac R.

KEY MAP